

A-Mi Wears a Bell

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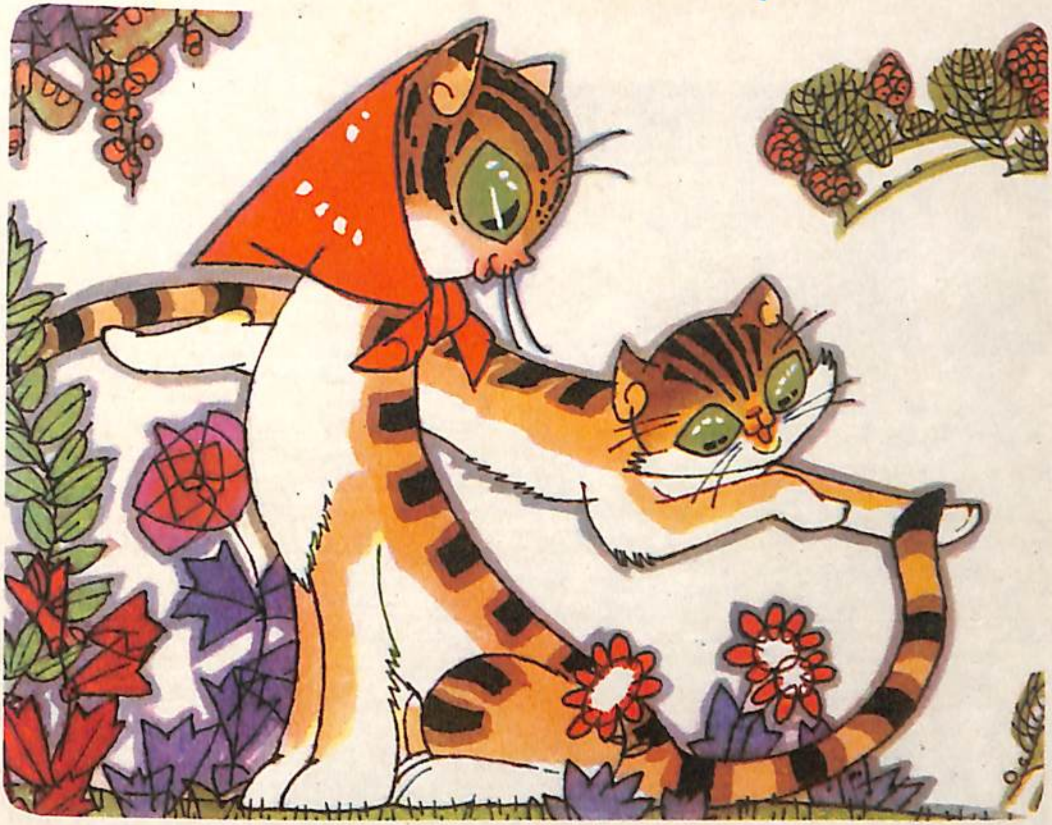
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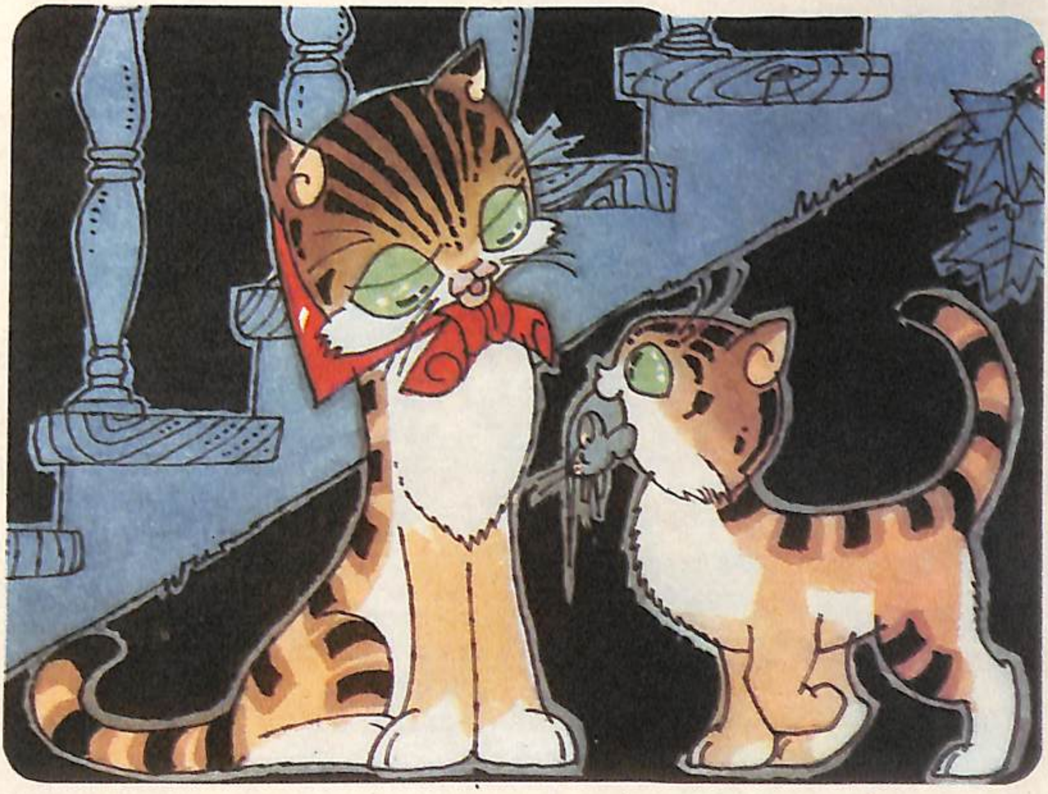


1. Kitten A-Mi is growing up and stays near his mummy learning how to catch mice.



2. One evening A-Mi springs into a corner of the room.

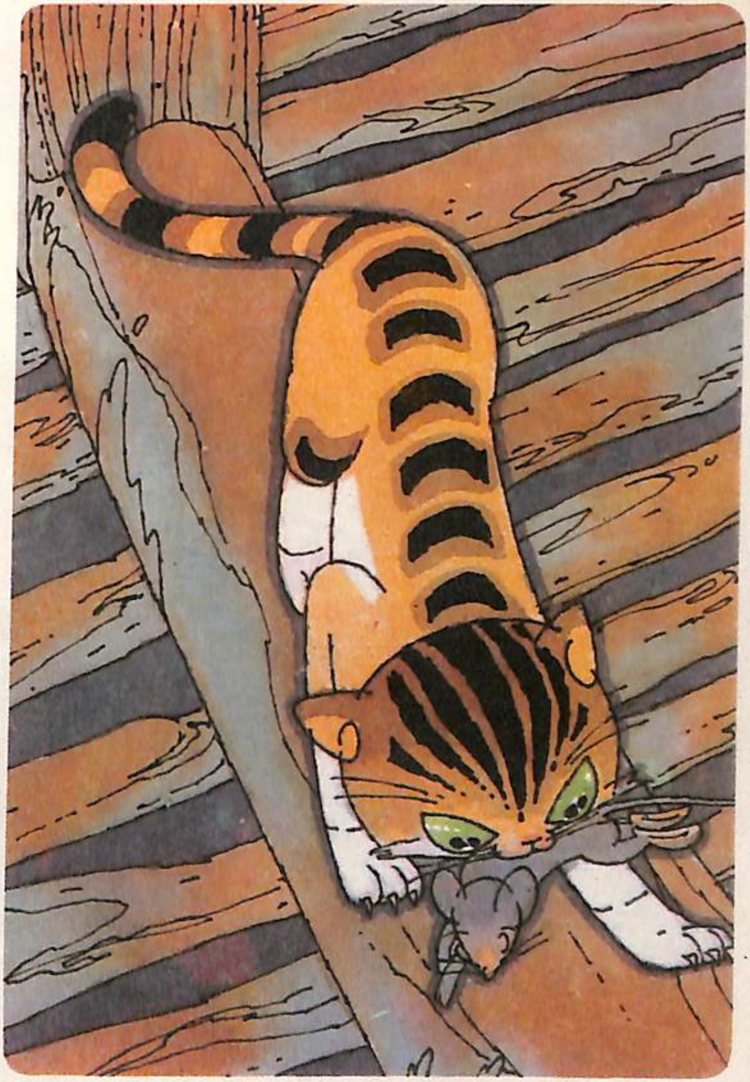
3. He goes to his mummy with a mouse in his mouth. A-Mi is very pleased with himself, and his mummy says proudly: "You're really learning, my dear little A-Mi."



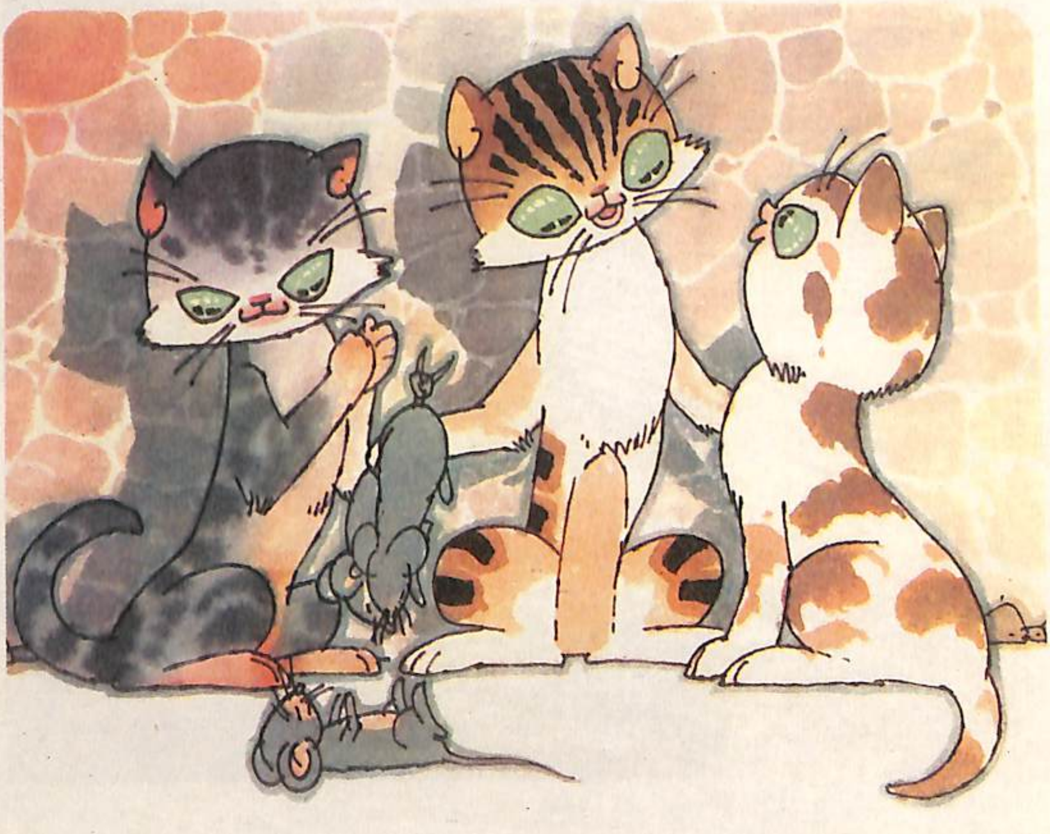


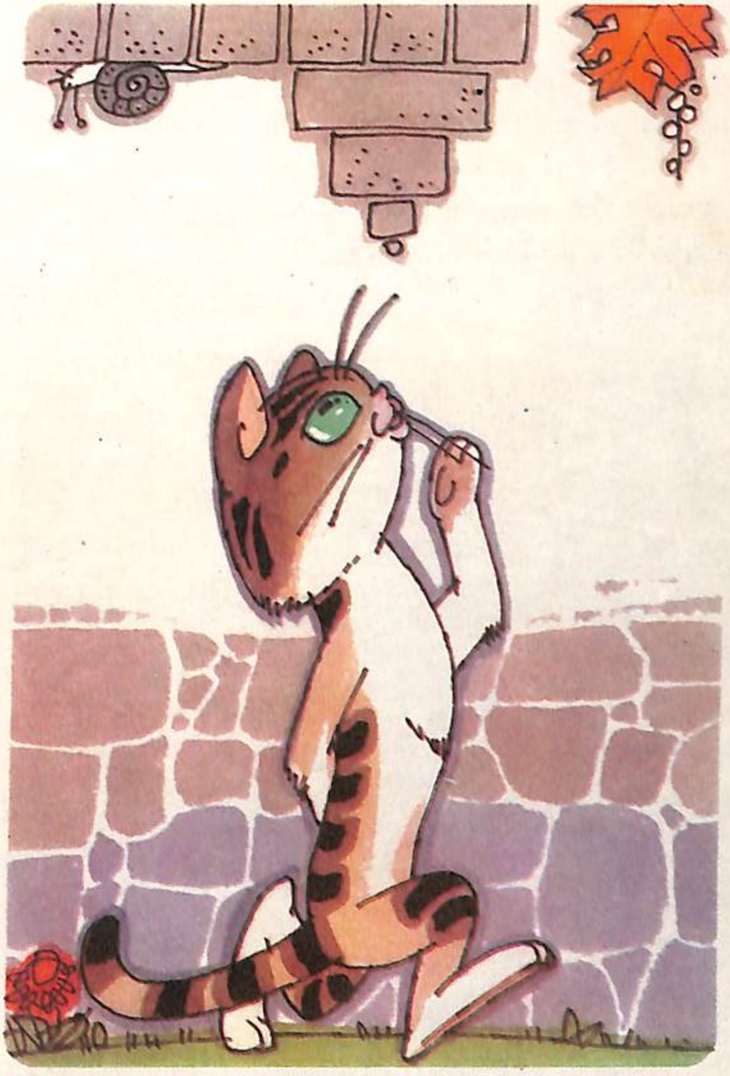
4. A-Mi blinks his eyes and says: "Now that I'm grown up I can catch my own mice." Mummy says yes, but tells A-Mi he should not be too sure of himself yet.

5. Now A-Mi really can catch his own mice. There's hardly a mouse that can get away from him.



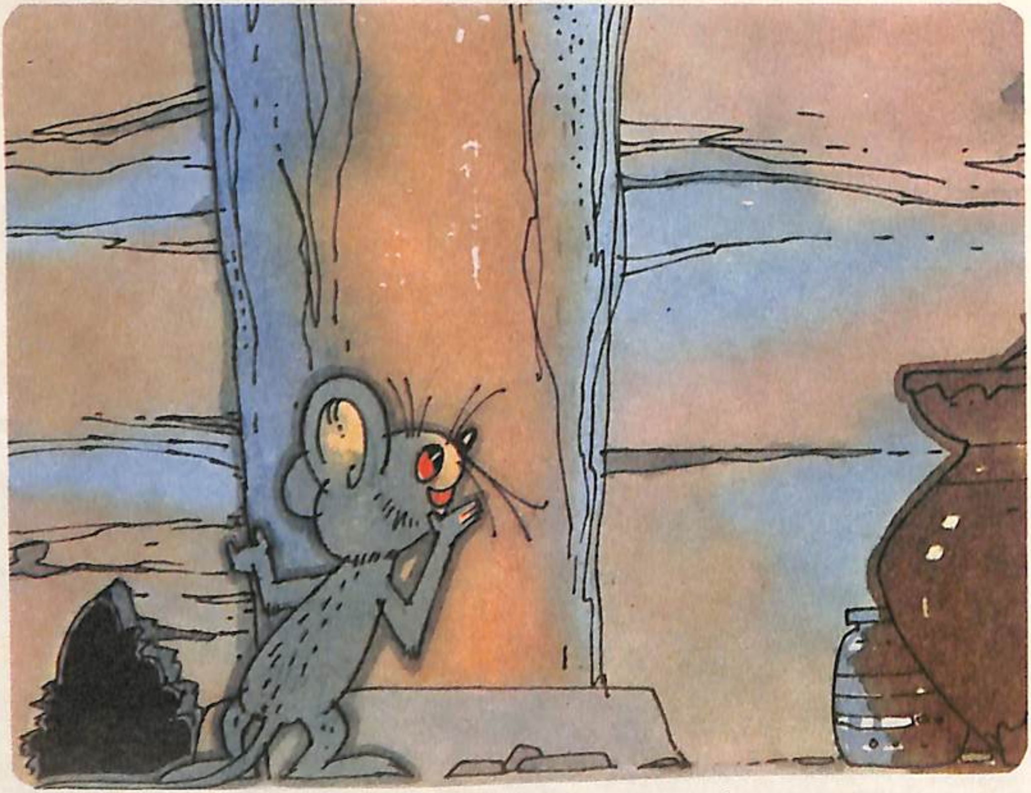
6. A-Mi catches a lot of mice, and all his playmates think he's great.





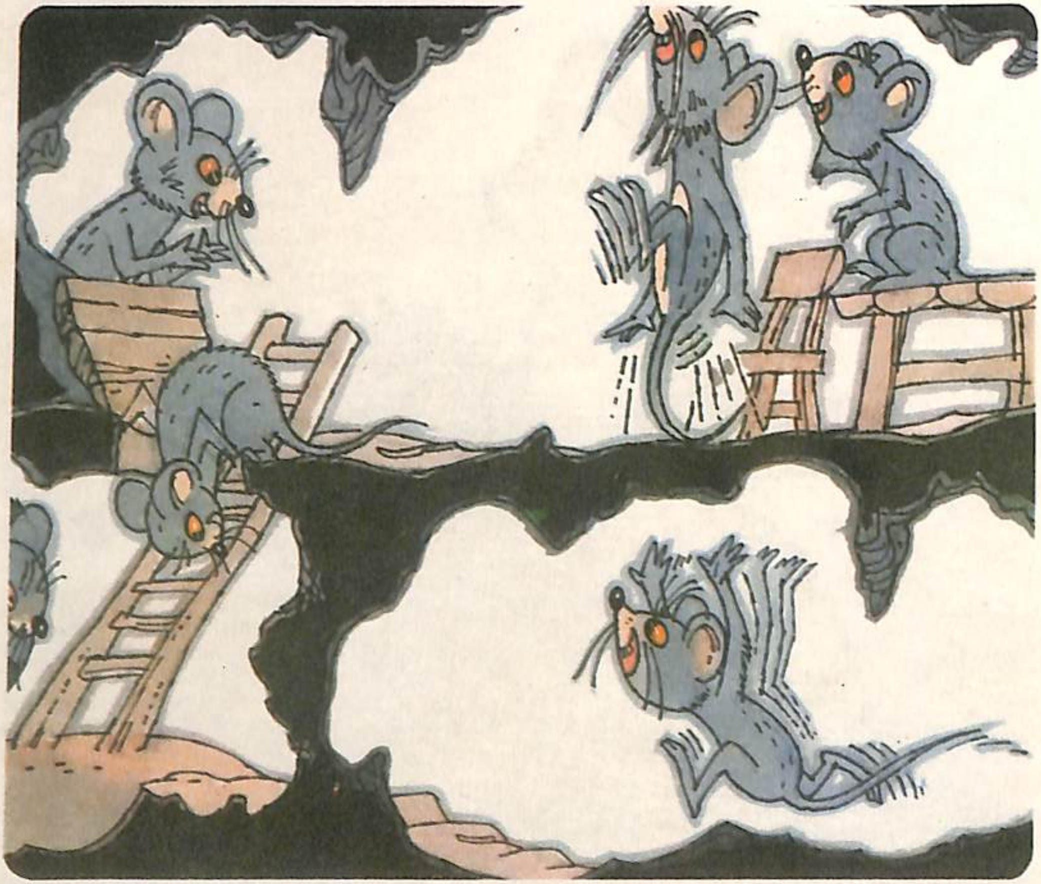
7. A-Mi also says: "I'm great!"

8. A little mouse overhears this boast, and knowing A-Mi loves to be flattered, the mouse also says: "My dear A-Mi, you really are great!"





9. A-Mi turns round and sees it is a mouse praising him. He would normally spring on it and catch it, but today. . . .



10. The smart little mouse scampers back into its hole. "Good news, A-Mi loves flattery. Praise him and he won't catch you."

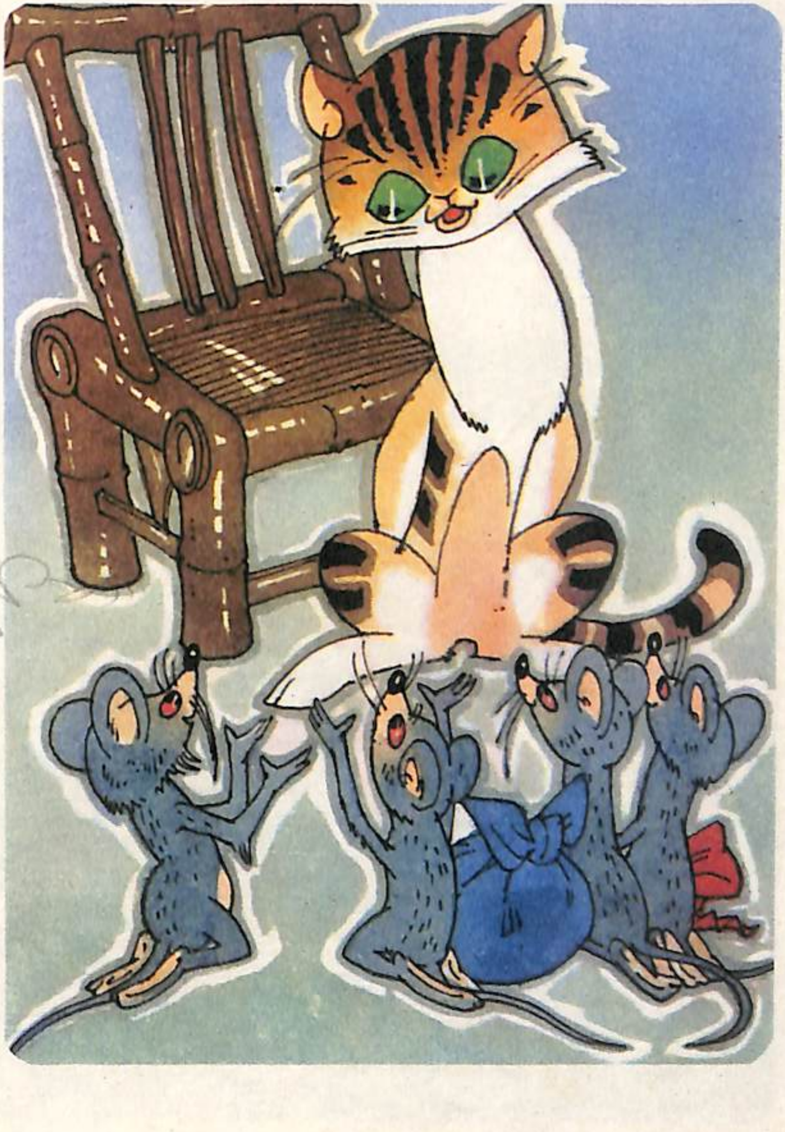
11. "You don't say," says the papa mouse, getting an idea. "Tomorrow I'll take you all to see this wonderful A-Mi."



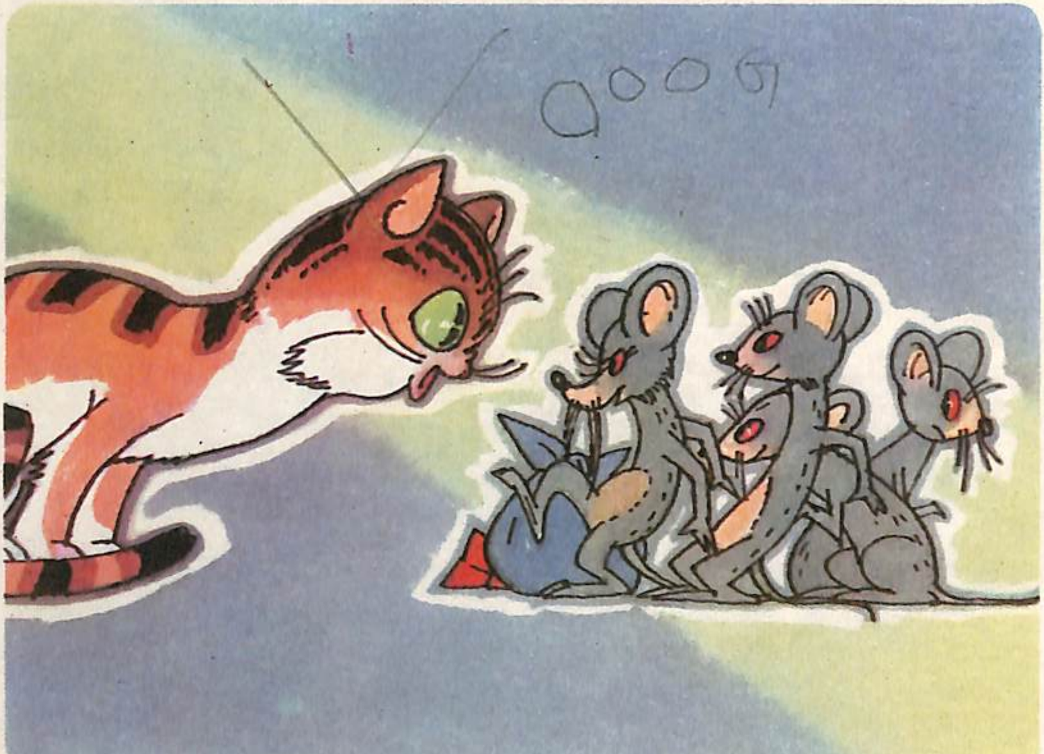
12. The next day the papa mouse and three little ones go with a big package to visit A-Mi.



13. "My dear A-Mi, you are really great," says the papa mouse. "We want you to be our king and protect us."



14. "Really?" A-Mi can hardly believe his kitten ears.





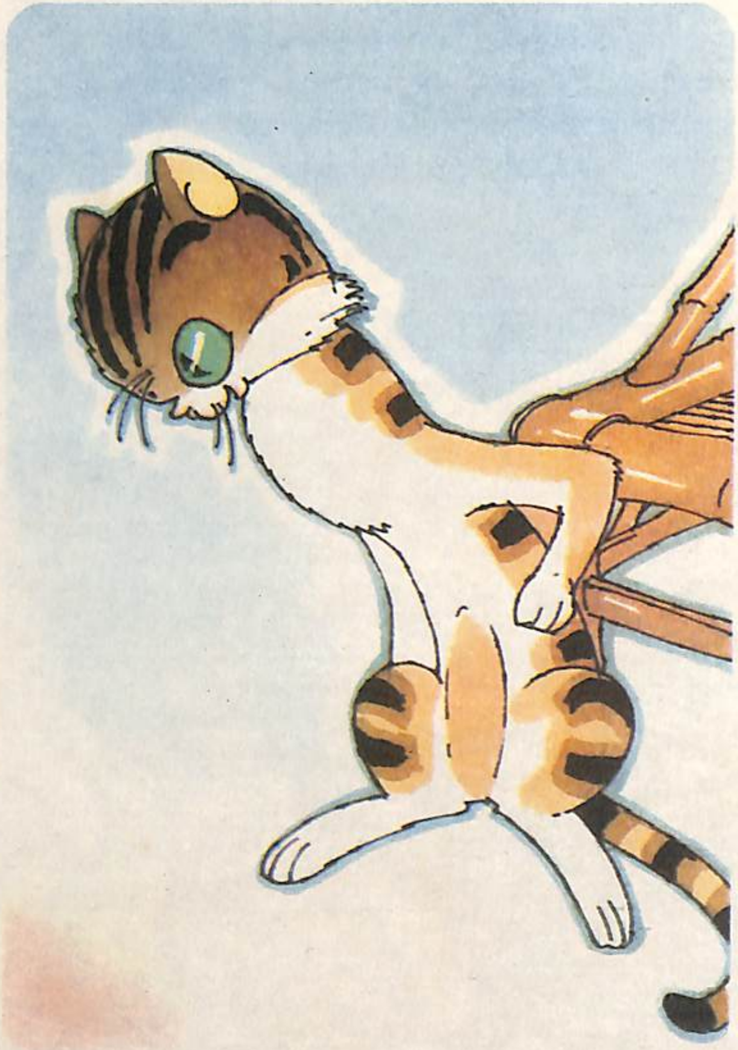
15. "Yes, you're going to be our king. You've got sharp eyes, and you're quick on your feet. You can catch us no matter where we hide!" A-Mi is excited to hear this.

16. "We've got a gold bell for you, our new king, and we've come to bring it to you," says the papa mouse. A-Mi is really excited. "A gold bell for a king?" says the kitten to himself.



17. The mice quickly open the package, and there is the bell. "This bell jingles when you put it around your neck. We can hear it, and we'll come running. You needn't go looking for us."





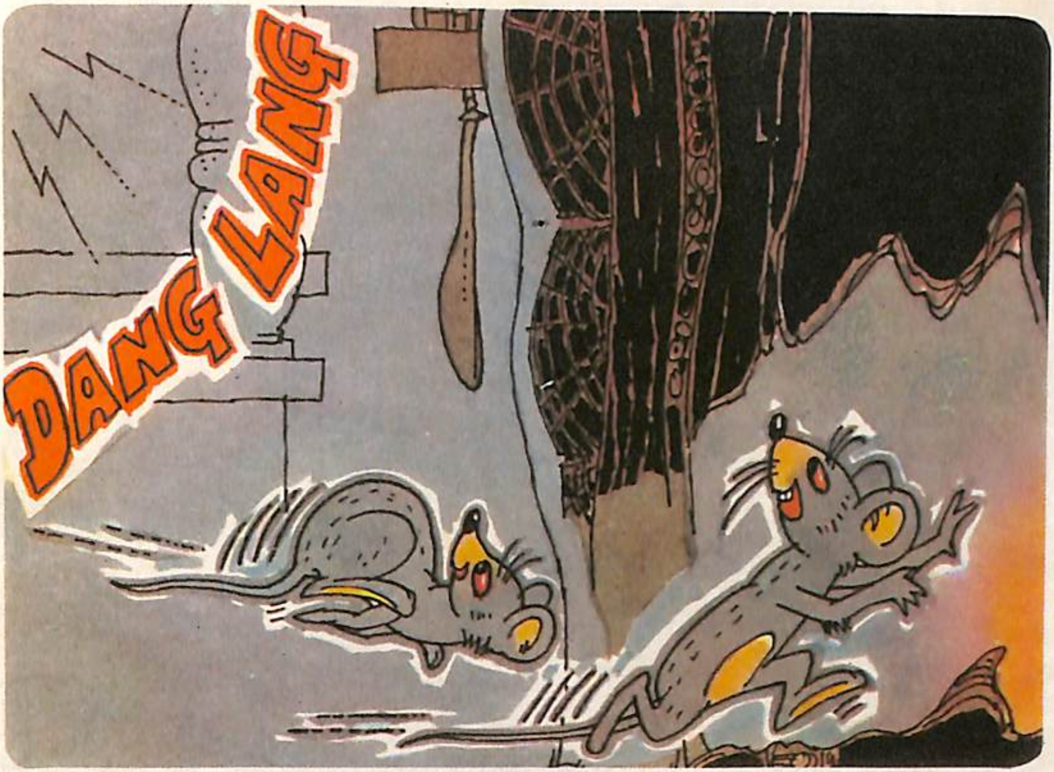
18. "A wonderful idea!" A-Mi is so happy he doesn't know what to do. He can't get that bell round his neck fast enough.



19. The mice see how eager A-Mi is and help him put the bell around his neck. "Long live our great king!" they shout.

20. A-Mi jumps for joy. And the bell jingles. . . .





21. A-Mi doesn't understand why he never sees his mouse "subjects" again. Of course they hide themselves safely away as soon as they hear the bell jingle.

22. Poor kitten A-Mi! He never catches another mouse. With a bell on his neck, what can a kitten do?





戴铃铛的猫

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